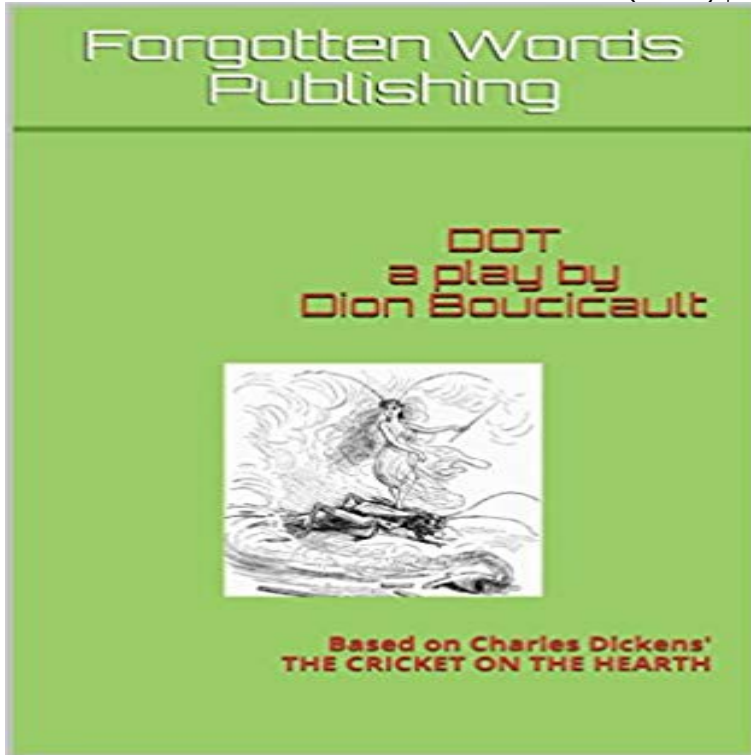


## DOT a play by Dion Boucicault: Based on Charles Dickens THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH (Forgotten Words Book 1)



Dion Boucicaults play DOT is a stage adaptation of Charles Dickens second Christmas Book, THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH. It was first produced in New York City at the Winter Garden Theatre on September 14, 1859, a production in which Agnes Robertson, Boucicaults young wife, played the role of Dot. The first British performance appears to have been on April 14, 1862 at Londons Adelphi Theatre, a production in which Louise Keeley had the leading role. Although the holographic manuscript is still available in the Lord Chamberlains Collection [Reference: British Library MSS Add. 53013E], it has yet to be published. - Philip V. Allingham, Contributing Editor, Victorian Web; Faculty of Education, Lakehead University (Canada) (1952) Malcolm Morley describes the American stage-history of Dion Boucicaults Dot: Boucicault, in his version [of Dickenss novella], introduces immortals from Shakespeare. . . . The drama is set, as it were, in a fairy frame; the opening being not unlike the commencement of the characteristic Christmas pantomime. In a wood Titania and Oberon meet with Fairy Home who tells them she is guarding the hearth of the Peerybingles. The people in the story are then seen in a vision before the play proper begins. American actor Joseph Jefferson played Caleb the toymaker, a role in the play that he was to enact in several subsequent revivals. Certain of his admirers regarded the performance as his best, placing it above that of Rip van Winkle in which he was seen the world over. Associated with Jefferson at the Winter Garden was Agnes Robertson (Mrs. Dion Boucicault) and Mrs. John Wood. The first made an appealing Dot and the second revelled in the risibilities of Tilly, the first of her long series of Dickens characters. In later showings Dot was sometimes given with, and sometimes without, the fairy opening.

Jefferson, himself, tinkered with the script and so, too, did John E. Owens. The latter played the part of the old toymaker, on and off, for twenty years: from Christmas, 1859, when the piece began a two months run at the Varieties Theatre, New Orleans, to 1879 in New York. Dot was decidedly a favorite play in the United States and Canada. [Dickensian 48: 21]. THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH, A Fairy Tale of Home, is a novella by Charles Dickens, published by Bradbury and Evans, and released December 20, 1845 with illustrations by Daniel Maclise, John Leech, Richard Doyle, Clarkson Stanfield and Edwin Henry Landseer. Dickens began writing the book around October 17, 1845 and finished it by early December. Like all of Dickens Christmas books, it was published in book form, not as a serial. Dickens described the novel as quiet and domestic, innocent and pretty. It is subdivided into chapters called Chirps, similar to the Quarters of The Chimes or the Staves of A Christmas Carol. It is the third of Dickens's five Christmas books, preceded by A Christmas Carol (1843) and The Chimes (1844), and followed by The Battle of Life (1846) and The Haunted Man and the Ghosts Bargain (1848).

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Played originally at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, February ii, **The Roots of Dickenss Christmas Books and Plays in Early** Published Jan 1, 2013 Forgotten Books Lulu Pr Dot a Play by Dion Boucicault: Based on Charles Dickens the Cricket on the Forgotten Words (series) Dot or the Cricket on the Hearth: The 1862 Theatrical Adaptation Paperback **The Cricket on the Hearth - Revolv** In Dot and Smike (both 1859) Boucicault had helped himself to The Cricket on the Hearth and Nicholas. Nickleby respectively, though the former play derived **DICKENS TO ZANDONAI** Dot a play by Dion Boucicault: based on Charles Dickens The Cricket on the The Cricket on the Hearth Forgotten Words Volume 1 (2015) (?). **none**